

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus for recording or playing back a video signal, said video-signal recording and playback apparatus comprising:

extracting means for extracting a static picture from a sequence of video signals with a predetermined timing;

judgment means for forming a judgment as to whether or not a static picture extracted by said extracting means can be used as a representative picture; and

setting means for setting said static picture as a representative picture in accordance with an outcome of a judgment formed by said judgment means.

2. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment means is capable of forming a judgment as to whether or not a static picture extracted by said extracting means can be used as a representative picture on the basis of whether or not said static picture is a part of a commercial.

3. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment means is capable of forming a judgment as to whether or not a static picture extracted by said extracting means can be used as a representative picture on the basis of a

histogram of said static picture.

4. A video-signal recording and playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment means is capable of forming a judgment as to whether or not a static picture extracted by said extracting means can be used as a representative picture on the basis of an edge of said static picture.

5. A video-signal recording and playback method adopted in a video-signal recording and playback apparatus for recording or playing back a video signal, said video-signal recording and playback method comprising:

an extracting step of extracting a static picture from a sequence of video signals with a predetermined timing;

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether or not said static picture extracted at said extracting step can be used as a representative picture; and

a setting step of setting said static picture as a representative picture in accordance with an outcome of a judgment formed at said judgment step.

6. A recording medium for recording a program for controlling a video-signal recording and playback apparatus for recording or playing back a video signal,

wherein said program is a computer readable program, said program comprising:

an extracting step of extracting a static picture from a sequence of video signals with a predetermined timing;

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to whether or not said static picture extracted at said extracting step can be used as a representative picture; and

a setting step of setting said static picture as a representative picture in accordance with an outcome of a judgment formed at said judgment step.